

Department of Treasury and Finance

The Treasury Building
21 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000
GPO Box 147 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Telephone (03) 6166 4444 Facsimile (03) 6173 0219
Email secretary@treasury.tas.gov.au Web www.treasury.tas.gov.au



Doc reference 23/211299

Robert Hogan
3 McLachlan Crescent
WEETANGERA ACT 2614

Email: harveyr35@aol.com

Dear Mr Hogan

Right to Information application - Re. University of Tasmania and Robert Hogan

I refer to your request dated 18 August 2023 under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI Act) seeking:

(1) I request the following records in relation to the period 23 November 2022 to 18 August 2023:

(a) All briefs provided to Senior Officers (Executives) and Ministers in the Treasury and Finance portfolio in relation to the proposed move of the University of Tasmania (UTAS) into the Hobart CBD and/or redevelopment of the Sandy Bay campus.

(b) All briefs provided to Senior Officers (Executives) and Ministers in the Treasury and Finance portfolio in relation to the financial health/situation of UTAS.

(c) All analyses undertaken within the Treasury and Finance portfolio in relation to the proposed move of UTAS into the Hobart CBD and/or redevelopment of the Sandy Bay campus.

(d) All analyses undertaken within the Treasury and Finance portfolio in relation to the financial health/situation of UTAS.

(e) All analyses undertaken within the Treasury and Finance portfolio of UTAS' annual report for 2022 (published 2023).

(2) I request all records relating to the matter of borrowing approvals and UTAS in the period 1 January 2022 to 18 August 2023.

(3) I request all records referring to UTAS' Green Bond either by name or substance.

(4) I request all records referring to me (Robert Hogan), by name or not.

Following email correspondence with you on 7 September 2023 and 12 September 2023, the request was amended to:

(1) I request the following records created during the period 23 November 2022 to 18 August 2023:

(a) All briefs provided to Senior Officers (Executives) and Ministers in the Treasury and Finance portfolio in relation to the proposed move of the University of Tasmania (UTAS) into the Hobart CBD and/or redevelopment of the Sandy Bay campus.

(b) All briefs provided to Senior Officers (Executives) and Ministers in the Treasury and Finance portfolio in relation to the financial health of UTAS.

(c) All analyses undertaken within the Treasury and Finance portfolio in relation to the proposed move of UTAS into the Hobart CBD and/or redevelopment of the Sandy Bay campus.

(d) All analyses undertaken within the Treasury and Finance portfolio in relation to the financial health of UTAS.

(e) All analyses undertaken within the Treasury and Finance portfolio of UTAS' annual report for the year ended 31 December 2022 (published 2023).

(2) I request all records relating to the matter of borrowing approvals and UTAS created during the period 23 November 2022 to 18 August 2023.

(3) I request all records referring to UTAS' Green Bond created during the period 1 January 2022 to 18 August 2023.

(4) I request all records referring to me (Robert Hogan), by name, created during the period 23 November 2022 to 18 August 2023.

Your request noted that 'records' is intended to include emails and other forms of electronic correspondence, and encompasses records held by the Treasury and Finance portfolio that emanated from third parties, including UTAS. Your request also noted that Senior Officers (Executives) means 'members of the Tasmanian Senior Government Executive Service'.

In scope records identified

Following my preliminary search and subsequent individual assessment of documents, 11 records were identified as containing information relevant to your request. The information contained in one of these documents was already publicly available in full on the website of the Tasmanian Parliament.¹ The remaining documents are listed in the enclosed schedule of records (Attachment A), together with my detailed assessment of each record, including any relevant exemption categories and public interest tests that I have applied.

Reasons for Decision

Record 1

Record 1 is a Ministerial briefing compiled to assist the Treasurer to prepare for his appearance at the Legislative Council Select Committee inquiry into the provisions of the *University of Tasmania Act 1992* on 6 July 2023.

I have redacted exempt and out of scope information from Record 1 in accordance with sections 27 and 39 of the *Right to Information Act 2009*² and determined the remaining information may be released.

Record 2

Record 2 is a timeline of UTAS borrowing activities from prior to 2014 to September 2022.

I have redacted out of scope information and information which is exempt under sections 31, 35 and 39 and determined the remaining information be released.

¹ See https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0033/75849/Treasurer-QoN-Response-25-July-2023.pdf.

² All legislative reference in this document are to the RTI Act, unless otherwise stated.

Record 3

Record 3 is an email dated 14 July 2023 to the Treasurer. The email contained two attachments, one of which is accessible via the website of the Tasmanian Parliament as described above, and another which does not fall within the scope of your application as it does not relate to the period 1 January 2022 to 18 August 2023. I note, however, that the three letters that make up the second attachment were released in part in relation to an earlier RTI application you submitted³ as Records 3, 26 and 63.

I have redacted personal information which is exempt under section 36 and determined the remaining information be released.

Record 4

Record 4 is an email dated 27 July 2023 requesting Treasury prepare a response to correspondence regarding UTAS' relocation to the Hobart CBD. The attachment to Record 4 is listed below as Record 5.

I have redacted personal information which is exempt under section 36 and determined the remaining information be released.

Record 5

Record 5 is an email from the Treasurer's office containing correspondence regarding UTAS' relocation to the Hobart CBD.

I have redacted personal information which is exempt under section 36 and determined the remaining information be released.

Record 6

Record 6 is a letter to Mr Hogan from the Treasurer setting out his role under the *University of Tasmania Act 1992* sent on 24 August 2023.

I have determined that the information contained in this record may be released in full.

Record 7

Record 7 is an email dated 3 August 2023 from Treasury to the Treasurer's office attaching a draft response to your letter dated 24 August 2023.

I have redacted personal information which is exempt under section 36 and determined that the remaining information be released.

Record 8

Record 8 is a draft copy of Record 6.

I have determined that the information contained in this record may be released in full.

Record 9

Record 9 is a letter from the Treasurer dated 4 September 2023 confirming that the State does not guarantee green bonds issued by UTAS.

I have redacted personal information which is exempt under section 36 and determined the remaining information be released.

³ See Information for release - RTI Review - UTAS (PDF 12Mb) at www.treasury.tas.gov.au/about-us/corporate-governance/right-to-information/right-to-information-disclosure-log.

Record 10

Record 10 is a Parliamentary Briefing finalised on 7 July 2023 regarding the Legislative Council Select Committee inquiry into the provisions of the *University of Tasmania Act 1992*.

I have redacted exempt and out of scope information from Record 10 in accordance with section 27 and determined the remaining information may be released.

Summary of determination

I have determined that:

- 2 records be released in full; and
- 8 released in part as I consider that some information contained in those records is out of scope or exempt under sections 27, 31, 35, 36 and 39 of the RTI Act.

Review

Should you wish to lodge an application for an internal review of my decision, you may do so under section 43 of the RTI Act. An application for review must be made in writing within 20 working days of receipt of this letter. You will be taken to have received this letter via email on the date of this letter.

Should you have any queries or require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Jane Cameron on (03) 6145 5882 or email rti@treasury.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Jane Cameron
Delegated RTI Officer

10 November 2023

Attachment A. Schedule of in-scope records

| Record | Title | |
|---------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. | 20230622 - Ministerial Briefing - University of Tasmania Select Committee | Partially release s. 27, 39 |
| 2. | University of Tasmania Select Committee - Detailed Internal Timeline - FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY | Partially release s. 31, 35, 39 |
| 3. | 20230714 Email to TO - MIN23/19475 : TREASURER - Hon Rob Valentine MLC - Inquiry into the Provisions of the University of Tasmania Act 1992 - questions on notice from the hearing | Partially release s. 36 |
| 4. | MIN23/19339 - Due 3/08 - Robert Hogan - Concerns over UTAS relocation to Hobart CBD | Partially release s. 36 |
| 5. | FW UTAS relocation to Hobart CBD would lead to financial disaster for UTAS and Tasmania. The move needs to stop now..msg | Partially release s. 36 |
| 6. | 20230803 Letter from Treasurer to Mr Robert Hogan regarding University of Tasmania | Release in full |
| 7. | MIN23/19339 - OTS to TO - Robert Hogan - UTAS relocation to Hobart CBD would lead to financial disaster for UTAS and Tasmania. The move needs to stop now | Partially release s. 36 |
| 8. | 20230803 Letter from Treasurer to Mr Robert Hogan regarding University of Tasmania.DOCX | Release in full |
| 9. | 20230721 Letter from Treasurer to [REDACTED] regarding University of Tasmania | Partially release s. 36 |
| 10. | FINAL T64 - Legislative Council Inquiry into the University of Tasmania (SPM) PB CURRENT TO 31 DECEMBER 2023 | Partially release s. 27 |